

Haiti by tangibly promoting prosperity and democracy in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, I request that a copy of the full text of H.R. 5650 be inserted at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 5650

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Haiti Economic Recovery, Opportunity Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. TRADE BENEFITS TO HAITI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 213 the following new section:

"SEC. 213A. SPECIAL RULE FOR HAITI.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other preferential treatment under this Act, in each 12-month period beginning on October 1, 2002, apparel articles described in subsections (b) that are imported directly into the customs territory of the United States from Haiti shall enter the United States free of duty, subject to the limitations described in subsections (b) and (c), if Haiti has satisfied the requirements set forth in subsection (d).

"(b) APPAREL ARTICLES DESCRIBED.—Apparel articles described in this subsection are apparel articles that are wholly assembled or knit-to-shape in Haiti exclusively from any, combination of fabrics, fabric components, components knit-to-shape, and yarns formed in one or more of the following countries:

"(1) The United States.

"(2) Any, country, that is party to a, free trade agreement with the United States, on January 1, 2002.

"(3) Any country that enters into a free trade agreement with the United States subject to the provisions of title XXI of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210).

"(4) Any country designated as a beneficiary country under—

"(A) section 213(b)(5)(B) of this Act;

"(B) section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)); or

"(C) section 204(b)(6)(B) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(6)(B)).

"(5) Any country, if the fabrics or yarns are designated as not being commercially available in the United States for the purposes of NAFTA (Annex 401), the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, the African Opportunity and Growth Act, or the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act.

"(c) Preferential Treatment.—The preferential treatment described in subsection (a), shall be extended

"(1) during the 12-month period beginning on October 1, 2002, to a quantity of apparel articles that is equal to 1.5 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States during the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2001; and

"(2) during the 12-month period beginning on October 1 of each succeeding year, to a quantity of apparel articles that is equal to the product of—

"(A) the percentage applicable during the previous 12-month period plus 0.5 percent (but not over 3.5 percent); and

"(B) the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States during the 12-month period that ends on September 30 of that year.

"(d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Haiti shall be eligible for preferential treatment under this section if the President determines and certifies to Congress that Haiti—

"(1) has established, or is making continual progress toward establishing—

"(A) a market-based economy, that protects private property rights, incorporates an open rules-based trading system, and minimizes government interference in the economy through measures such as price controls, subsidies, and government ownership of economic assets;

"(B) the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process, a fair trial, and equal protection under the law;

"(C) the elimination of barriers to United States trade and investment, including by—

"(i) the provision of national treatment and measures to create an environment conducive to domestic and foreign investment;

"(ii) the protection of intellectual property; and

"(iii) the resolution of bilateral trade and investment disputes;

"(D) economic policies to reduce poverty, increase the availability of health care and educational opportunities, expand physical infrastructure, promote the development of private enterprise, and encourage the formation of capital markets through microcredit or other programs,

"(E) a system to combat corruption and bribery, such as signing and implementing the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions; and

"(F) protection of internationally recognized worker rights, including the right of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor, a minimum age for the employment of children, and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health;

"(2) does not engage in activities that undermine United States national security or foreign policy interests; and

"(3) does not engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or provide support for acts of international terrorism and cooperates in international efforts to eliminate human rights violations and terrorist activities."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after October 1, 2002.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law, upon proper request filed with the Customs Service before the 90th day after the date of the enactment of this Act, any entry or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption, of any goods described in the amendment made by subsection (a)—

(A) that was made on or after October 1, 2002, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(B) with respect to which there would have been no duty if the amendment made by subsection (a) applied to such entry or withdrawal, shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such amendment applied to such entry or withdrawal.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE STUDENTS AT VETERANS MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BRICK TOWNSHIP, NJ

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and commu-

nity service exhibited during the past school year by the students of Veterans Memorial Elementary School in Brick Township, New Jersey. It is my honor and privilege of representing these students, and their parents and teachers in Congress.

During this past year, the students invested many hours of service in projects to help make life better for their school and greater community. For example, in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the students honored local fire fighters who participated in rescue and recovery operations at Ground Zero. They also sent thank you notes to New York City police and fire fighters, and wrote letters to a local serviceman stationed overseas.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that the students' community service did not just begin, nor will it end, with their outstanding efforts related to September 11th.

To highlight the importance of a clean and safe environment, the students commemorated Earth Day by decorating grocery bags with environment-friendly messages. These bags were then used by patrons of a local supermarket so they could take home the students' messages about how we must protect for our environment.

They also implemented a school-wide paper recycling program, and worked to beautify the school's grounds.

To enhance their own understanding of the challenges that older Americans face, the students visit with senior citizens in their community, exchanging ideas, and striking up new friendships. They make special holiday gifts for the seniors and also put on concerts, including one full of patriotic songs. It's the students' way of thanking America's "greatest generation"; a generation that risked all to secure freedom at home and abroad. As chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am especially grateful for the outreach our students have initiated with seniors and veterans—the namesakes of their school.

When a peer's house tragically burned to the ground, the students of Veterans Memorial Elementary School responded by holding an emergency fund-raiser. They also collected warm winter coats for students in need and helped their school buy new books and playground equipment.

While this is only a small sampling of community service activities performed by the students of Veterans Elementary, it is clear that these children, while learning the subjects and skills they need to succeed in academia, are also learning the generosity, compassion, and service needed to be outstanding members of their community.

I am proud to congratulate the students of Veterans Elementary School. Their leader and my friend, Principal Joe Vicari also deserves our thanks for his many years of hard work and generosity and the dedicated teachers and support staff at Veterans Elementary School also deserve high praise and recognition. I wish them all the very best of success for another year of outstanding community service, and I look forward to working with them in their endeavors in the years to come,